

**A STUDY ON THE VIABILITY OF IMPLEMENTING *HALAL*  
FOOD ACT IN MALAYSIA**

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The students/authors confirm that the work submitted is their own and that appropriate credit has been given where reference has been made to the work of others.

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## **ABSTRACT**

The demand of *Halal* food products has seen the global growth in *Halal* trade and Malaysia is no exception. Muslims and non-Muslims manufacturers are joining the wagon to produce *Halal* products for the masses. This raises concern whether the current law is adequate to protect *Halal* integrity and consumers against *Halal* abuses. Datas are collected through literatures and interviews conducted, besides critical analysis done on the current law. Currently there is no specific law to regulate the industry. This paper discusses the current development of *Halal* industry and makes reference to the low awareness level of the Muslim consumers. It also looks into the problems posed within the current *Halal* regulatory framework. All these are taken into consideration in arriving to the need and viability of a *Halal* Act. *Halal* Act is found to be necessary and important to patch up the hole of current inadequate law, to strengthen the consumer protection, and to realize Malaysia as *Halal* hub. The viability of *Halal* Act is met with a mixed answer. The implementation of the *Halal* Act though found necessary is met with the hurdle of state power in Islamic matter and their hesitancy to give up on the power. *Halal* Act may be materialised with consent of States. If States' consent cannot be solicited, the farthest we can go is to amend Trade Description Act 1972 to provide more consumer protection and stricter punishment for *Halal* abuse.

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We hope that the research paper will at least be of benefit to any person and to the academic development of the country.

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